

design et al

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THE DESIGN ISSUE



A CHERISHED ESCAPE FROM THE CITY

CANADIAN LAKESIDE COTTAGE
GILLIAN GILLIES









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Located in cottage county, a two hour drive north east of Toronto, lies the Canadian Lakeside Cottage project that Gillian Gillies completed the interior design of, for a client that would be using the property all throughout the year. Completed in 2018, the property was purchased by the client in the Autumn of 2017 as an escape from the busy city life of Toronto for themselves, their family and friends. As the property sits right on the lake, Gillian Giles had to be first and foremost respectful to the exterior landscape. As all the rooms of the property have lakeside views, the challenge was to use a colour palette that did not detract from the beauty of the nature surrounding the property. As the clients gave the brief of an escape from their busy weekday city life, the furnishings had to be not only good looking and comfortable, but very liveable; the space had to feel inviting and relaxing for all guests who enter the property.

When deciding on the colours of the project, in order to compliment the surroundings, Gillian decided on a watery blue palette with accents of teal and chamomile yellow, so that the colours were not overpowering in contrast to the vibrancy of the natural landscape. Mixed metals were paired with woven accents that have a grounding and simplifying effect throughout the home. It is an incredibly tactile space that has a mix of patterns and textures that all combined to ensure that the living areas were a beautiful space to be in but be above all else, comfortable. With views of the lake extending out from the property, the blues of the furniture and furnishings reflect the surrounding waters perfectly. The open plan layout of the property allows for a much more open and free flowing

atmosphere to the property, aiding the brief to be comfortable and inviting to all. The side tables and dining table mirrored the down to earth feel of the project. They are primarily painted wood and natural elements, creating a cottage escape that is easy on the eye. Describing the space and elements used in the project, Gillian stated “The living spaces are incredibly bright, and we selected materials that are fade resistant.” The resistance of the elements included was an important factor, as the temperature throughout the year range wildly, dropping well below freezing and soaring high in the summer. With large windows to allow natural light to soar in, the furnishings and fabrics had to be robust.

Designed by Gillian Gillies of Gillian Gillies Interiors, the Canadian Lakeside Cottage project has been shortlisted in the International Design & Architecture Awards 2019 in the Living Space Global category. Gillian, a prominent interior designer hailing originally from Edinburgh but working in Toronto, said of the awards that “They provide a global awards platform. I believe that they encourage diversity and broaden our outlook.” Her design style features consistent elements of symmetry and spatial awareness along with a happy dose of eclectic playfulness. This is evident within the shortlisted project, which features a mix of a calming aesthetic with a playful nature displayed through the artwork chosen. The artwork was carefully chosen so that it could be long lasting and would survive through the varying weather conditions of the area. It had to be suitable for the bright sunshine of Ontario summers and the freezing winters that follow.

The project had to not only accommodate the owners of the property but also their family and friends. Meaning that the project had to be durable and be able to be used throughout the year. Durability and functionality is a large factor in all of Gillian’s projects, ensuring that they are not only aesthetically pleasing but also are going to last. Her favourite aspect of this particular project is the artwork. “Art always brings soul and dimension to our design schemes.” The artwork chosen in this project follows this statement, with a connection being established between the property and the lakeside location being established through the choice of art in the living space. As a design that was tailored for her clients and their exacting needs, maintaining the clear brief was important. Gillian has successfully implemented the delicate balance between the comfortable, year round living space whilst maintaining a design style that is complementary to the natural surroundings of the property. Whether swimming in or skating on the lake, the interior easily accommodates the conditions and presents a welcoming atmosphere upon the residents return. The lake itself is a viewpoint from all windows and acts as an anchor point in all the rooms, again allowing for the balance between the exterior and the interior.

The project is a perfect combination of summer time scape and cosy cottage in the winter. It is a place to entertain friends on weekend trips, whilst still feeling like a home. Enjoyed throughout the year, this a home that is now cherished by its owners.



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Global designs.*



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